

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD by Harper Lee – Grammar and Style

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label underlined words:

p = personification *s* = simile *m* = metaphor *o* = onomatopoeia *h* = hyperbole

- ___ 1. Ladies bathed before noon, after their three-o'clock naps, and by nightfall were like soft teacakes with frostings of sweat and sweet talcum.
- ___ 2. "Your name's longer'n you are. Bet it's a foot longer."
- ___ 3. The Radley Place fascinated Dill. In spite of our warnings and explanations it drew him as the moon draws water, but drew him no nearer than the light-pole on the corner, a safe distance from the Radley gate.
- ___ 4. Indeed, they were an endless Project that slowly evolved into a Unit, in which miles of construction paper and wax crayon were expended by the State of Alabama in its well-meaning but fruitless efforts to teach me Group Dynamics.
- ___ 5. As for me, I knew nothing except what I gathered from Time magazine and reading everything I could lay hands on at home, but as I inched sluggishly along the treadmill of the Maycomb County school system, I could not help receiving the impression that I was being cheated out of something.
- ___ 6. Some tinfoil was sticking in a knot-hole just above my eye level, winking at me in the afternoon sun.
- ___ 7. The back porch was bathed in moonlight, and the shadow, crisp as toast, moved across the porch toward Jem.
- ___ 8. Jem's white shirt-tail dipped and bobbed like a small ghost dancing away to escape the coming morning.
- ___ 9. The fire was well into the second floor and had eaten its way to the roof: window frames were black against a vivid orange center.
- ___ 10. Two geological ages later, we heard the soles of Atticus's shoes scrape the front steps.
- ___ 11. The Governor was eager to scrape a few barnacles off the ship of state; there were sitdown strikes in Birmingham; bread lines in the cities grew longer, people in the country grew poorer.
- ___ 12. Zeebo cleared his throat and read in a voice like the rumble of distant artillery.

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- ___ 13. As a result the town remained the same size for a hundred years, an island in a patchwork sea of cotton fields and timberland.
- ___ 14. Aunt Alexandra fitted into the world of Maycomb like a hand into a glove, but never into the world of Jem and me.
- ___ 15. Through my tears I saw Jem standing in a similar pool of isolation, his head cocked to one side.
- ___ 16. I felt the starched walls of a pink cotton penitentiary closing in on me, and for the second time in my life I thought of running away.
- ___ 17. Punk, punk, punk, her needle broke the taut circle. She stopped, and pulled the cloth tighter: punk-punk-punk. She was furious.
- ___ 18. With his infinite capacity for calming turbulent seas, he could make a rape case as dry as a sermon.
- ___ 19. Apparently Mayella's recital had given her confidence, but it was not her father's brash kind: there was something stealthy about hers, like a steady-eyed cat with a twitchy tail.
- ___ 20. Mr. Braxton Underwood, who had been sitting quietly in a chair reserved for the Press, soaking up testimony with his sponge of a brain, allowed his bitter eyes to rove over the Colored balcony, and they met mine.
- ___ 21. The old courthouse clock suffered its preliminary strain and struck the hour, eight deafening bongs that shook our bones.
- ___ 22. Then Mr. Underwood's meaning became clear: Atticus had used every tool available to free men to save Tom Robinson, but in the secret courts of men's hearts Atticus had no case.
- ___ 23. Perhaps Atticus was right, but the events of the summer hung over us like smoke in a closed room.
- ___ 24. Haints, Hot Steams, incantations, secret signs, had vanished with our years as mist with sunrise.
- ___ 25. Whoever it was wore thick cotton pants; what I thought were trees rustling was the soft swish of cotton on cotton, wheek, wheek, with every step.